



DES MOINES POLICE DEPARTMENT SECOND CHANCE PROGRAM

SPO Deb VanVelzen (DMPD)

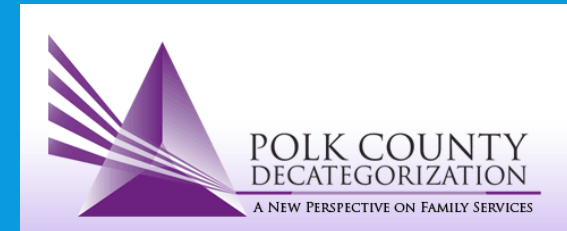
Youth Services Coordinator

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Second Chance Case Manager

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OVERVIEW APPROACH

**Dedicated an officer
and case manager to
coordinate pre charge
diversion program**

**Evidence Based
Approach to serve
low/no risk youth**

**Defined Criteria
All youth that meet
criteria are enrolled**

**Provide youth
multiple opportunities
for diversion
(Three Tiers)**

**Expanded
individualized
programming**

**Data Collection
through CJP Pre-
Charge Database**

DMPD Second Chance Program

	TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3
	It is the goal of the Des Moines Police Department to divert youth from formal involvement with the juvenile justice system. Youth who are eligible will be referred to the DMPD Second Chance Program, a pre-charge diversion program.		
Referral Source(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMPD Officers Juvenile Court Services 		
Target Population	Youth Ages 10-17 Low Risk First time offender	Youth Ages 10-17 Low Risk First time offender for below charges or Second time offender of Tier 1 or Tier 2 (minimum 12 months between offenses)	Youth Ages 10-17 Low Risk First time offender of Tier 3 offense. May have one previous Tier 1 OR 2 offense (minimum 12 months between offenses)

All qualifying youth cases are sent to the Youth Services Coordinator (DMPD) who works with Juvenile Court to determine eligibility for Second Chance.

Tier 1

Qualifying Charges

- Disorderly Conduct
- Criminal Trespass
- Interference with Official Acts

Possible Programming

- LEO Contact (minimal)
- BE SMART, DON'T START Letter
- Other resources available upon request

Duration of Programming

30 days

Diversion Opportunities

Once

Tier 2

Qualifying Charges

- Simple Assault (no injury)
- Theft 5th (no restitution)
- Public Intoxication
- Minor in Possession of Alcohol
- Drug Paraphernalia
- Criminal Mischief 5th (no restitution)
- Knife on School Grounds
- Previous T1 or T2 Offense

Possible Programming

- LEO & Case Manager Contact
- Court Solution Course/In person class (2-4 hours)
- Service Learning (up to 4 hours)
- Apology Letter/Mediation
- Outreach/Mentoring (up to 4 hours)
- Parent/Family resource upon request

Duration of Programming

60 days

Diversion Opportunities

Twice with a minimum 12 month elapsed time between offenses

Tier 3

Qualifying Charges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possession of Marijuana
Possible Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LEO & Case Manager Contact• Court Solution Course/In person class (up to 4 hours)• Service Learning (up to 6 hours)• Apology Letter/Mediation• Outreach/Mentoring (up to 6 hours)• Parent/Family resource upon request
Duration of Programming	90 days
Diversion Opportunities	Once

YOUTH WHO REOFFEND DURING THE PROGRAM, FAIL TO ATTEND OR COMPLETE PROGRAMMING:

- Tier 1 & 2 – Parent/Youth are notified and not eligible for future Second Chance programs. Case is filed within the PD as **“Prosecution Declined - Juvenile Warned”**
- Tier 3 – Parent/Youth notified and are not eligible for future Second Chance Programs. **Case and charges are forwarded to Juvenile Court Services on a delay referral.**

Goal: Avoid criminalizing normal adolescent behavior

IOWA PRE-CHARGE DIVERSION (PCD) WEBSITE

- FREE CJPJ Web-based application
- Developed to provide a more structured and uniformed format for tracking PCD youth and recidivism rate across the State of Iowa
- Other statistical information pertaining to youth and the justice system through CJPJ
- Allows for evaluation of diversion programs and other agency policies regarding youth

DMPD Second Chance is FREE for youth.
It is funded by the
Des Moines Police Activities League, DMPD seized
funds, grants, & private donors.



Benefits of Second Chance

- Officers build positive relationships with youth, parents and community by referring youth – “Good Cop vs Bad Cop”
- Connects youth/families to sustainable community resources
- Accessible for all youth who qualify to participate
- Youth has no record of being in “the system”
- Keeps low risk youth out of detention and the system
 - Employment / Housing / College / Financial Aid / Military
- Cost effective alternative to court involvement and supervision
- Lowers the number of complaints to Juvenile Court
- Decriminalizes normal, adolescent behavior

What Have We Learned?

- Can be challenging to change the mindset of traditional policing practices...even with yourself!
- Creating sustainable and reliable community partners is critical
- Holding kids accountable while providing mentorship is key
- Our current program does not provide age-appropriate programming for younger youth
 - Program modifications are made when necessary
- We would like to provide no-cost programming opportunities for parents and families
 - Need to create local partnerships

For more information:

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